

see 82
a2
1 7. (Amended) A method of seeking admission to a computer network, comprising:
2 determining, at a first network device which is not a current component of the computer
3 network, whether a communication channel used for communicatively coupling two or more
4 current components of the computer network is actively being utilized by the current components
5 of the computer network; and
6 transmitting, from the first network device, a message within the communication channel at
7 a time depending upon whether the communication channel is actively being utilized or not.

see 84
a3
12. (Amended) A method, comprising:
2 listening, at a network controller, for a connection request message transmitted by a first
3 component, which is not a current component of a computer network in which the network
4 controller operates, seeking access to a communication channel communicatively coupling one or
5 more current network components to the network controller; and
6 upon receipt of the connection request message, negotiating bandwidth requirements
7 within the communication channel with the first component.

a4
1 16. (Amended) A method, comprising accessing at a device not currently associated with a
2 computer network a communication channel communicatively coupling components of [a] the
3 computer network by first acting as a communication master to request access to the
4 communication channel and subsequently acting as a communication slave once the request for
5 access to the communication channel has been recognized.

a5
1 20. (Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the terms comprise an indication of time slots
2 within the communication channel during which the [first component] device may expect to
3 receive information from the network controller and during which the [first component] device
4 may transmit information to the network controller.

see 86
a6
1 27. (Amended) A method of providing access to a computer network, comprising: